

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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IKAIKA ANDERSON

Council Vice Chair

Councilmember, District 3

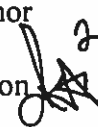
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December 11, 2016

TO: Council Chair Designate Ron Menor

FROM: Council Vice Chair Ikaika Anderson 

RE: 2016 NACo Fall Board of Directors and Rural Action Caucus Meetings

RECEIVED
2016 DEC 22 P 2:04
CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

I attended the 2016 National Association of Counties Fall Board of Directors and Rural Action Caucus meetings from December 7-10. The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) is an association comprised of all four of Hawaii's county governments- all four of Hawaii's county councils have a representative on the HSAC Executive Committee. I represent Honolulu on HSAC's Executive Committee, and serve as the organization's treasurer, which is a role I began in January 2016. Prior to serving as HSAC Treasurer, I served as the secretary. HSAC, as an organization, is a member of NACo. In addition to my duties as a member of the HSAC Executive Committee, I also serve on the NACo Board of Directors, and in my capacity as a NACo Board member I attended the NACo Board meeting during the Legislative Conference. Additionally, I serve as a member of the NACo Rural Action Caucus, and I attended the RAC meeting in this capacity.

RAC WELCOME RECEPTION

At the welcome reception, I had the opportunity to interface with my counterparts national counterparts. Issues discussed include NACo as an organization establishing solid working relationships with members of the incoming President-elect Donald Trump Administration, working to restore America's crumbling infrastructure via funding partnerships with the federal government, and the vast turnover on the NACo BOD thru retirements and term limitations of members.

FORMER NACo PRESIDENT RIKI HOKAMA

During a meeting with former NACo President and current Maui County Council Budget Chairman Riki Hokama, it was emphasized that HSAC needs to be united in our policy goals that we will advance during the 2017 State Legislative Session. Chair Hokama stated that while his Council has opposed enacting a state general excise tax (GET) surcharge on Maui County for transit projects, he remains supportive of both Honolulu's mass transit rail project and the state

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GET surcharge that assists in paying for the project. We also discussed the importance of all four councils remaining united in our position of seeking the counties' fair share of state Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues, which are generated by hotel room occupancy taxes, with the state.

TAX-EXEMPT MUNICIPAL BONDS

The benefit of tax-exempt municipal bonds was discussed during both the RAC and BOD meetings. As a matter of policy, NACo and its member counties are concerned that Congress may recommend a cap or a total repeal on bond exemptions. The first federal tax code of 1913 established tax-exempt municipal bonds as an important tool for local governments to provide infrastructure and capital services in America's counties.

The NACo has found that;

- *\$3.2 trillion in infrastructure investment was financed via municipal bonds between 2003 and 2012;

- *45 percent of long-term municipal bonds issued nationwide funded the building of schools, hospitals, roads and jails;

- *Municipal bonds maintain a track record of low default rates superior to comparable corporate bonds;

- *the federal tax-exemption for municipal bond interest represents a fair allocation of the cost of projects between federal, state/local levels of government. State and local governments invested more than double in infrastructure than the federal government;

- *Any tax imposed on currently tax-exempt municipal bond interest will affect all our citizens as investors in bonds and as taxpayers securing the payment of municipal bonds.

FORMER U.S. SENATOR BOB GRAHAM

Senator Bob Graham encouraged NACo to directly engage our citizens; he mentioned that the recent federal elections were a result of an angry electorate that feels disengaged from government and the political process. He noted how numerous successful candidates distanced themselves from the federal government- the senator specifically mentioned how Democratic Presidential nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tried and failed miserably to do this. Sen. Graham said that the real action in both government and policy is at the local level, and it's this local level that impacts citizens the most. Local government is in the best position to reestablish public trust and faith in government.

CHRIS HAND

Chris Hand is an author and former speechwriter for Sen. Graham. In a January 2016 poll of 3,000 likely GOP Primary Election voters, Hand shared that 85 percent of respondents stated their support of Donald Trump due largely in part to their distrust of government and the establishment. He also noted socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders' solid performance in the Democratic Primary against a well-established and well-funded candidate; Hand noted that Sanders' performance was especially impressive due to Sanders' status as a political independent who is not a member of any political party.

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Numerous speakers mentioned the positive impact the ACA has had across the country. The Act

- *disallowed the practice of medical insurance companies denying medical coverage based on “pre-existing medical conditions”;

- *allows children to remain covered by their parents’ medical insurance until age 26;

- *provides medical insurance coverage to millions of formerly uninsured Americans;

- *removes the lifetime insurance benefit cap.

As President-Elect Trump has revised his position from opposition to amending the Act, NACo looks forward to working with the new administration on ACA policy.

NACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors has established building a solid working relationship with the new presidential administration, diversifying NACo income streams and remaining the go-to experts on county government as priorities for the upcoming year. The Board supports reducing restrictions and guidelines on federal government grant funding; educating Congress on county issues; and enhancing the quality of life for the people our officials represent.

NACo is in a strong financial position. Our total revenues are up by 9.69%, and our proposed budget projects an increase in net operating income of more than seven percent.

NACo has relocated our headquarters to 660 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 400 as of November 1- our organization has signed a 15-year lease for this facility. The move is projected to save \$2 million versus a renewal of the lease at our former site.

In the coming weeks, I will examine policy resolution proposals of various NACo committees to see how HSAC can best contribute to policy discussions at the NACo Legislative Conference that take place in Washington, DC during the month of February.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: May 9, 2017

Traveler: Council Member Ikaika Anderson

Event: 2016 NACo RAC Symposium/BOD

Location: Tallahassee, Florida

Dates: From December 5, 201~~6~~¹⁶ To December 11, 201~~6~~¹⁶

Description	Amount	Notes:
1 Registration Fee		
2 Airfare	1406.65	
3 Hotel	970.77 956.27	
4 Meals	171.21	
5 Ground Transportation	197.11 193.99	
6 Tips	30.45 39.57	
7 Other	50	Baggage fees
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2832.10 2817.69	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment.


Signature of Traveler

May 9, 2017

Date